

## U.S. INNOVATION AND COMPETITION ACT

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, today, the Senate passed the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act—USICA—legislation which would establish a new Technology and Innovation Directorate at the National Science Foundation. Section 2005 of USICA would define 10 initial key technology focus areas to direct research at the new Directorate and the Department of Energy. One of these areas is advanced energy technology. I want to put in the record that Congress has previously enacted legislation defining advanced energy technology in 42 USC 18632, and that definition should apply here.

## VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent, but had I been present would have voted yes on rollcall vote 215, On the Motion to Table, Motion to Table Rubio Amdt. No. 1802.

I was necessarily absent, but had I been present would have voted yes on rollcall vote 216, on the amendment, Crapo-Wyden Amdt. No. 1562 as modified.

I was necessarily absent, but had I been present would have voted yes on rollcall vote 217, on the Motion for Attendance, Motion to Instruct the Sergeant at Arms to Request the Attendance of Absentee Senators.

I was necessarily absent, but had I been present would have voted yes on rollcall vote 218, on Motion to Invoke Cloture Re: Motion to Proceed to H.R. 3233.

## HONORING TROOPER JOHN MARTIN HARRIS

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Madam President, I rise to pay tribute to Mississippi Highway Patrol Trooper John Martin Harris, who was killed in the line of duty on May 28, 2021. Harris was conducting a routine traffic stop on Highway 16 in Madison County when a vehicle struck and killed him. I honor Trooper Harris' service, extend my deepest condolences to his family, and reiterate my unwavering support for our law enforcement personnel.

A Clarksdale native, Harris knew from a young age he wanted to serve his community as a law enforcement officer. Trooper Harris began his law enforcement career in 1997 in Webb, MS. He earned his first Law Enforcement Purple Heart while serving on the police force in Friars Point and earned a second Purple Heart while serving at the Madison County Sheriff's Office. Harris then continued his career at the Richland Police Department. In 2018, Harris achieved his lifelong dream of becoming a Mississippi Highway Patrolman and graduated from Trooper School as part of Cadet Class No. 62. In addition to the Purple Heart medals, Harris received dozens of awards, too numerous to mention here, for valor

and bravery. Several were commendations for his work on narcotics teams and with K-9 units.

Trooper Harris is survived by his wife Katie Parker Harris of Madison, his two children Parker and Cooper, and his parents Jean and Jimmy Harris of Clarksdale. I send my deepest sympathies to his family and to all who knew him. May God grant them comfort, grace, and peace in these unspeakably difficult times.

Law enforcement officers across our Nation face many challenges in their mission to protect and serve. Trooper Harris's death shows us that our law enforcement officers face tremendous danger to ensure public safety, and I greatly admire those who remain steadfast amidst the dangers of their noble profession. Let us commemorate Trooper Harris's life by redoubling our commitment to support and advocate for those in law enforcement. I will continue to honor the legacy of Trooper Harris and all of those officers who have lost their life in the line of duty by doing all I can to support our law enforcement officers.

## 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATRONA COUNTY MEALS ON WHEELS

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I rise today to recognize a significant anniversary for the Natrona County Meals on Wheels Program. On Saturday, June 19, 2021, this wonderful organization will celebrate its 50th anniversary.

Meals on Wheels is dedicated to providing healthy meals, a friendly smile, and a watchful eye to seniors across the Nation. As a doctor, I understand the importance of balanced nutrition but also companionship and care. The hard-working employees and volunteers deliver all three by offering tailored meals and home visits.

In 1971 Casper resident Mabel Marvel founded the Casper branch of Meals on Wheels. Mabel was on a trip to Colorado to visit family when she ran across a similar service. The volunteers for the Colorado organization were delivering hot meals to elderly residents from a church kitchen. Mrs. Marvel realized that Casper did not have such a program. Soon after, she formed an office in a Salvation Army coat closet and requested that the Natrona County Memorial Hospital, now Wyoming Medical Center, aid in providing meals. This was the beginning of the Natrona County Meals on Wheels Program.

When Natrona County Meals on Wheels began initial operations, they were preparing 20 meals a day. By 2001, the number of meals delivered increased to over 500 per day. When the coronavirus pandemic hit, the need for home-delivered meals exploded. This Casper-based organization rose to the challenge and served clients who were forced to quarantine and unable to leave their homes. In Natrona County, they delivered over 650 meals each

Monday through Thursday and an average of 1,550 meals on Fridays to cover the weekends. Their hard work resulted in senior citizens in Natrona County receiving nearly 207,000 meals in 2020.

Serving so many people at once is challenging, especially when many of these meals are prepared with special dietary needs in mind. Meals on Wheels prepares healthy food for community members requiring specific diets including diabetic, celiac, and vegetarian. The volunteers with Meals on Wheels also make home visits to check in with members of the community who may not have enough social interaction or are not as mobile. The giving nature of this organization presents its members with a balanced meal and quality time spent with others. Ensuring the needs of community members allows seniors to preserve their independence at home.

Meals on Wheels continues to find new ways to enrich our community. Jamie Loveall has been leading the charge as the Executive Director of Natrona County Meals on Wheels for more than 17 years. She has written grants, planned community events, and helped prepare meals in order to keep clients fed, staff members engaged, and the community aware. A favorite community event is their Bubbles, Baubles 'n Beans fundraiser. It is a chili and soup tasting experience to raise money for annual operating costs.

The strength of an organization is determined by the dedication of its leadership, staff, and volunteers. The full-time staff are responsible for preparing the meals, managing the financial aspects, and writing the delivery routes. In addition to Executive Director Jamie Loveall, staff members are Katrina Lorenzen, Foundation Development Director, Andrea Trout, Route Coordinator/Administrative Assistant, Debbie Cardinal, Receptionist/Volunteer Coordinator, Ashley Woodward, Client Services Coordinator, Mariah Bokhari, Bookkeeper, and Shelley Blake, Kitchen Manager.

Current board members are Jim Browlee, President, Joe Moss, Vice President, Vickie Ujvary, Treasurer, Don Smith, Secretary, and members Wendy Elmer, Bob Thunselle, Ed Chase, Jennifer Deurloo, Peggy Porter, Kelli Carmichael, Paul Rhodes, CJ Lovato, Dane Grace, and Stacia Hill.

The volunteers deliver the meals, partake in home visits, and spend quality time with clients. Eighty-five percent of the volunteers with the Natrona County service are seniors themselves, using their time to help friends and neighbors. About the volunteers, Jamie Loveall says, "Without these individuals, our program would not exist."

It is my great honor to celebrate the incredible work of this organization. Every day, the staff and volunteers of Natrona County Meals on Wheels work to make our community a better place

to live. My wife Bobbi joins me in wishing the Natrona County Meals on Wheels another 50 years of success.

#### TRIBUTE TO COLONEL NATHAN E. COOK II

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, today I honor a superb leader, liaison, and soldier for his tireless commitment to the U.S. Army, which includes 2 years of service with the Army Office of the Legislative Liaison, as the chief of the Army's Senate Liaison Division. As COL Nathan E. Cook II prepares to retire after 28 years of dedicated and distinguished service to our Nation, I believe it is fitting to recognize his exceptional service and relationship with this Chamber.

Colonel Cook's congressional liaison assignment is only the capstone to what has been an outstanding career of service to the Army and our Nation. Colonel Cook is a 1993 graduate of The United States Military Academy at West Point. He was commissioned into the Army as a field artillery officer and has served in command and staff positions from the tactical to the strategic level in the 2d Armored Division, 4th Infantry Division, 8th Army, 3d Infantry Division, 1st Cavalry Division, Headquarters Resolute Support, and Headquarters Department of the Army. He has led our Nation's soldiers during multiple combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan during OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM, OPERATION NEW DAWN, and OPERATION RESOLUTE SUPPORT. Likewise, he commanded our soldiers in combat as the commander of the 3d Battalion, 82d Field Artillery Regiment from Fort Hood, TX, and the 75th Field Artillery Brigade from Fort Sill, OK. Prior to his assignment as the chief of the Army's Senate Liaison Division, he served as the senior advisor to the Afghan Minister of Defense, where he provided timely and critical advice across the Ministry of Defense and the NATO coalition. The Army has continuously relied upon Colonel Cook for his exceptional leadership and unparalleled work ethic throughout his career.

Over the course of the last few years, Colonel Cook's tireless efforts proved invaluable in broadening the understanding of Members and staff on Army priorities, policies, and initiatives that ultimately provided resources and authorities for the Army and enhanced trust and confidence across the Senate. He managed all of this while leading and managing numerous congressional delegations to various locations around the world. Colonel Cook has become a trusted adviser and friend to many of us, distinguishing himself by continuously going above and beyond the call of duty to serve the needs of Congress.

This Chamber will feel Colonel Cook's absence. I join many past and present Members of Congress in my gratitude and appreciation to Colonel Cook for his outstanding leadership and unwavering support. There is no

doubt that the strength of our soldiers comes from their families. Colonel Cook's strength comes from his wife Traci and his two sons, Nathan and Joshua. This Nation is grateful for their commitment and personal sacrifices made throughout Colonel Cook's career.

On behalf of the U.S. Senate and the United States of America, I commend Colonel Cook for his tireless efforts in the support of our Army, our military, and our Nation. As Nate and his family transition from the military, I congratulate him on completing an extremely successful military career and wish all of them the best in all their future endeavors.

#### TRIBUTE TO ZACHARY ZAMPELLA

Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, I recognize Zachary Daniel Zampella, who, after 12 years of serving the people of Florida in the U.S. Senate, has moved on to new opportunities. I thank him for his years of hard work with my office.

Zach began his time with my office as a caseworker specializing in military and veterans administration issues before becoming my regional director for Southwest Florida in 2012. He returned to my Orlando office in 2015, serving as deputy director of constituent services.

During his time with my office, Zach mentored several of my staffers, played a key role in my Constituent Services Department and disaster relief efforts, and drafted office correspondence. He also assisted veterans with their issues pertaining to the Department of Veteran Affairs and worked with other various Federal, State, and local government agencies.

In 2017, he assisted residents affected by Hurricane Irma, working our Recovery Assistance Center events held in the hardest hit cities across Florida. In 2018 and 2019, he made several trips to the panhandle region after Hurricane Michael's devastation. He walked door-to-door to assist constituents and provided valuable assistance in the region.

Zach grew up in Orlando, FL, graduating with his bachelor's degree in history and master's degree in business administration from Southeastern University in Lakeland, FL. After graduation, he interned for Senator Mel Martinez, later joining his staff in 2008. He also worked for Senator George LeMieux before joining my staff in 2011.

Zach's work for my constituents for my office made a real difference over the years. I am grateful for his dedicated service to the people of Florida and extend my best wishes to Zach on his future endeavors.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### RECOGNIZING RUPE'S BURGERS

• Mr. RISCH. Madam President, as a senior member and former chairman of

the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each month I recognize and celebrate the American entrepreneurial spirit by highlighting the success of a small business in my home State of Idaho. Today I am pleased to honor Rupe's Burgers in Blackfoot, which will celebrate its 34th anniversary this month, as the Idaho Small Business of the Month for June 2021.

Rupe's Burgers is an American-style diner and drive-in known for its quality food and strong community foundation. In 1962, former owner Vaughn Rupe opened an A&W Restaurant and after years of success made the decision to sell the restaurant in 1978. In 1987, Vaughn's son Kevin purchased the property and renamed the restaurant "Rupe's Burgers."

Rupe's Burgers prides itself on its dedication to community service. The Rupe family donates and volunteers for local philanthropic missions, such as the Santa's Helpers Program, a holiday drive organized by Bingham County emergency responders to provide gifts to economically disadvantaged children. The restaurant has also donated to local organizations that promote the success and leadership of women, such as Blackfoot Distinguished Young Women and Soroptimists. In addition to its philanthropic efforts, the Rupe family puts a premium on serving and celebrating the Blackfoot community, featuring memorabilia from local school sports teams and providing nearly 50 jobs to the local community.

Congratulations to Kevin and all of the employees of Rupe's Burgers on being selected as the Idaho Small Business of the Month for June 2021, and congratulations on 34 years in business. You make our great State proud, and I look forward to your continued growth and success.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-1125. A communication from the Senior Official performing the duties of the Under